

REHABILITATION TECHNOLOGY

A. Definition . Rehabilitation technology means the systematic application of technologies, engineering methodologies, or scientific principles to meet the needs of, and address the barriers confronted by, individuals with disabilities in areas that includes education, rehabilitation, employment, transportation, independent living, and recreation. The term includes rehabilitation engineering, assistive technology devices, and assistive technology services. (34 CFR 361.5(b)(45))

Rehabilitation engineering means the systematic application of engineering sciences to design, develop, adapt, test, evaluate, apply, and distribute technological solutions to problems confronted by individuals with disabilities in functional areas, such as mobility, communications, hearing, vision, and cognition, and in activities associated with employment, independent living, education, and integration into the community. (34 CFR 361.5(b)(44))

The term ~~%~~Assistive Technology Device+ means any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially, off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of an individual with a disability. (34 CFR 361.5(b)(7))

The term ~~%~~Assistive Technology Service+ means any service that directly assists an individual in the selection, acquisition or use of an assistive technology device. (34 CFR 361.5(b)(8))

The term ~~%~~home modification+ means the alteration of an already existing living unit to make it usable or more usable by a person with a disability.

B. Scope of Services . IVRS Rehabilitation technology services are available at any point in the rehabilitation process, except to those on the waiting list. This includes, as appropriate, an evaluation of the ability of the individual to benefit from rehabilitation technology services.

Areas in which rehabilitation technology services may be of assistance include seating and positioning, augmentative communication, computer access, environmental controls, mobility equipment, and modification of the job site or home.

C. Agency Expectations:

1. The devices and related services shall meet established state or federal health and safety standards as applicable.

August, 2007



2. When individualized prescriptions and fittings for such devices are required, they shall be completed only by individuals licensed for such activity in the state. In the absence of a licensure law, such activity shall be performed by state recognized certified professionals.
3. Clients should obtain insurance on devices, if they are not already covered under a homeowners, renters, or medical insurance policy. IVRS does not pay for insurance premiums for these items. It is the responsibility of the individual to ensure that the equipment is well taken care of and understands that IVRS does not replace items that have not been maintained properly due to misuse.
4. IVRS does not have special services available to provide captioned films or video cassettes for deaf individuals.
5. IVRS will not fund rehabilitation technology which is the responsibility of some other entity (e.g., educational institutions, employers, etc.) under ADA, IDEA, or other laws or regulations. Consultation, planning and assessment services may be provided.
6. Home modifications are only done when necessary to support and derive full benefit from other rehabilitation services, or as part of a program of independent living services. The R-406 is used to determine client financial participation.
7. IVRS does not fund home purchase, maintenance, or repair. Modifications of the home must be disability related and relevant to the vocational goal. Repair of the home for the modification to be made is the responsibility of the home owner.
8. IVRS staff should consult with their SWATT member prior to referral to the Assistive Technology Counselor.
9. IVRS staff should complete the Assistive Technology Referral Form if recommended by the SWATT member and then submit it to the Assistive Technology Counselor.
10. Rural Solutions is a comparable service for AT needs for clients with farming operations.
11. IVRS uses Medicaid rates for hearing aid purchase with application of R-406.

D. Exceptions: The following require an exception signed by the supervisor:

1. IVRS paying more than \$2,000 for home modifications.
2. IVRS paying to modify a second living unit.
3. Purchase of a computer see A-3.
4. Purchase services to repair a home or vehicle.
5. Replace equipment previously purchased by IVRS.
6. IVRS paying more than the Medicaid or applicable Medicare rate. (See Administrators Bulletin).

August, 2007

